



June 9, 2009

Chairman George Miller  
Committee on Education & Labor

Chairman Henry Waxman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce

Chairman Charlie Rangel  
Committee on Ways & Means

Dear Chairmen,

Republicans are firmly committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care. We want to work with you in a bipartisan manner to lower health care costs, allow those who like their coverage to keep it, and improve access, quality and coverage – and all at a price our country can afford.

Unfortunately, to date you have chosen to exclude Republicans in drafting health care reform legislation. According to media reports, Chairman Waxman has confirmed that the three of you are “working on the same conceptual framework, which is based on President Obama’s ideas.” It is also evident from Chairman Rangel’s remarks that such legislation could be introduced in the House as early as next week.

Health care is too important an issue to get wrong. As such, we write to respectfully request that our Committees properly and fully vet your health care proposals, which could fundamentally alter how millions of Americans pay for and receive their health care. To ensure we produce the right health care reform legislation, we ask that each of the Committees of Jurisdiction hold hearings to examine at least the following three issues:

1. Will a government created and/or managed plan force millions of Americans to lose their current health care coverage?
2. Will a government created and/or managed plan, or any other aspect of the health care reform legislation, limit patients’ ability to receive treatments or pick their own doctor?
3. Will the presence of mandates increase the cost of health care for employers, forcing them to eliminate jobs for American workers?



We are mindful that the Speaker has pledged to the President that the House will vote on a bill before the August recess. While this artificial timeline certainly requires we work quickly, it cannot undermine our responsibility to produce the best possible legislation on behalf of the American people.

Please inform us as soon as possible when you intend to hold hearings on these issues.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Buck McKeon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ranking Member Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Committee on Education & Labor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Barton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.  
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Ranking Member Joe Barton  
Committee on Energy & Commerce

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Ranking Member Dave Camp  
Committee on Ways & Means